

# Palm Beach County Library Association



Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
Palm Beach County Library Association  
May 30, 2007, at the Society of the Four Arts

Present: 39 people attended. Board members: Ethan Allen (President Elect), Kathy Boyes (Past President), Karen Mahnk, Janeen Pelsner, Leah Plocharczyk (Secretary), Elena Romeo (President) and Joyce Waters (Treasurer).

**Announcement:** The first annual book sale will be held at the Society of the Four Arts on Saturday, June 30 from 10-1.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:25 pm. The minutes from last year's annual meeting of June 6, 2006 were read by the secretary, Leah Plocharczyk.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joyce Waters gave the Treasurer's Report for 2006-2007.

As of June 6, 2006 the balance was \$3,420.00 and the total annual income due to memberships, was \$780.00.

## **Expenses included:**

The annual report which was filed twice - \$122.50.

Annual meeting refreshments for June 2006 - \$158.42

Post office box rental - \$80.00

Tape recorder for Secretary - \$42.59

Refreshments for meetings - \$80.97

**Total expenses - \$484.48**

The balance as of May 30, 2007 is \$3,715.52.

## **President's Report:**

Many thanks were given all the way around: Elena Romeo thanked everyone for coming and gave a special thanks to Tiffany Wyatt for all of her hard work. Elena also thanked Molly Charlan for allowing us to hold our annual meeting at this beautiful location. Elena reported that the membership has certainly grown over the last year. There has been good

representation from Palm Beach County. Some of our latest accomplishments include getting a permanent PO Box near the Summit facility. Elena thanked Ethan Allen (President Elect) for all of his hard work on the website with adding the directory as well as for the design of the pamphlet. Elena thanked Karen Mahnk and Art Quinn for their assistance with this also, and Kathy Boyes for her guidance throughout the year.

Elena mentioned that the board members' contact information is on the website and encouraged the members to contact us for input, suggestions and comments for ways to improve the Association.

#### **Recap of last year's programs:**

1. All of the programs were especially good. One of Elena's favorites was our first program "Library as Place" with Dr. Miller, Director of FAU libraries, who was the guest speaker. Elena said that she can provide a copy of his article to anyone who would like it. One of the resounding themes of this presentation was that the human element is still a large component of today's libraries even with the invention of modern technologies.
2. The second program took place at Palm Beach Central High School Media Center which is also a beautiful facility and is growing. Gwen Kistner was our speaker and presented a very strong program about how to attract teens to the library. As a result of this program, Elena began a Young Adult program at her library.
3. The third program was a panel discussion held on April 25 about the librarians of the future: "Librarians of the future: Cutting Edge or Dinosaurs". The panel included: Amanda Bosky (student), Alan Kornblau, Janeen Pelser, and Maria Treadwell with Jane Terwillegar as the mediator. Jane gave a very good slide presentation and masks were provided for the audience.
4. Today's program: Faye Roberts of the Bureau of Library Development with the State Library will present.

Elena also stated that membership has grown and the organization is getting stronger. She introduced the board members present. The scholarship money has not been awarded as of yet, but everyone should watch the website over the next few months for an announcement to be made.

**Proposed Slate of Officers:** Kathy Boyes presented the proposed slate of officers. The Board still needs 3 more directors to fill the academic, public and public school seats. We are looking for nominations from the floor.

Elena Romeo was re-elected as President, Ethan Allen will remain as President Elect, Leah Plocharczyk will continue as Secretary, Karen Mahnk is the new treasurer, Art Quinn will stay on in the academic capacity, Phyllis Lilley will stay on and Roxann Waggener is our new director at large. She works for Gunnster and Yokely law firm. Connie Brain, branch manager at Jupiter, is nominated from the floor as a representative

for the public libraries. Anthony Verdesca is nominated from the academic sector and Alice Warren is nominated to represent the public school library system.

Elena introduced Faye Roberts who discussed the following topics:

Faye stated that she has received good support throughout the years from all the various sectors. She came to the profession after being a social worker for a number of years and then worked for the public libraries for 19 years in the rural northern part of the state of Florida as a part time literacy coordinator. For ten years she worked at Columbia County as a director of small libraries where one is expected to do it all.

She states that there is no true way to predict what is to come under the Crist administration, other than things are bound to be different. She mentioned the concern for the proposed tax returns and doesn't know how the libraries will fare as a result.

The State Library and Archives of Florida's official name is the Division of Library and Information Services with the Department of the State which is headed by the Secretary of the State, Kurt Browning, the seventh secretary since 2002. Now the Secretary of State is appointed to office.

Faye discussed the following five areas:

- Division of elections
- Division of corporations – registers all of the corporations within the state of Florida
- Division of cultural affairs – state of the arts
- Division of historical resources – archives and historical collections
- Division of libraries and information services – Deputy Secretary, Judy Pedibar and Judy Ring who is the State Librarian

There are a number of roles within the Department of libraries and information services – this is the designated Florida resource for capital which includes:

Funds activities, archival services, preserves and collects published and unpublished documents of the state. This agency is developing the strategic plan for 2007-2008.

Five areas to the State Department:

- Administrative office – Florida electronic library and IT and web staff
- Records management – large storage facility in Tallahassee
- Special library – special purpose is to support legislature of the State Library, RA Gray Building
- Archives – houses more than 100,000 photos, manuscripts and genealogies
- Community development – this is Faye's area and includes training and records management, as well as library development and records retention

In this area, many of the grants administration, private and federal funds, state funds, state grants, construction grants, library cooperatives such as SEFLIN, state grants

such as the caring grants for impoverished and economically disadvantaged libraries take place

Amy Johnson is in charge of statistics which occur both online and in print. Also, return and investment studies are done in this department, as well as services and literacy training.

Faye works as a liaison with other librarians and works with 19 counties which puts her on the road quite frequently.

The state is directly affected by the governor's initiatives. Faye said that the new governor signed the budget last Thursday which was put together by past Governor Jeb Bush. This summer, Governor Crist will start his first budget. Funding went through for 10 of 20 construction grants for libraries in Palm Beach and downtown Boca Raton. One interesting thing to note is that a return on investment studies shows that for every one dollar invested in public libraries, there is a return to the economy in the amount of \$6.50, in the form of job creation etc.

- SEFLIN is a good way to advertise library jobs (most of which require the MLS degree) this job advertising is a free service and usually attracts a number of hits from outside of the state of Florida.
- **Leadership** – Sunshine State leadership is a mentoring program. The leadership institute holds 10 day long meetings, as well as a symposium for middle managers.
- **Florida Electronic Library** - Thompson Gale, includes access to OCLC, First Search, Florida on Florida, Florida Memory Project and "Ask a Librarian" service
- **State Library and Archives** serves the state of Florida through personal and professional growth as we face the future.

#### **Question and Answer session:**

There was a question regarding whether or not a technology training session will take place with Bill Gates. Faye responded that there is no more Gates money available and that LSTA will request funds for the next year. Faye also mentions the CD's which are on everyone's chairs. These CD's are from the Florida Folk Life Digitization Collection which was recorded in White Springs.

To conclude, Elena brought up one more issue for us to discuss and think about. Elena questioned whether or not the audience is truly working as library advocates. She stressed the importance of advocating for our libraries as we are faced with property tax issues. We need to advocate for our libraries by contacting our congressmen via email. Also, as librarians, we should spread the word about the importance of libraries to our neighbors, and especially the youth as they are our future supporters.

Chuck Waugh mentioned the library service provider job exchange program which is a great way to learn about new jobs.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 12. Leah will not be present to take the minutes as she is taking her comprehensive exams that day.